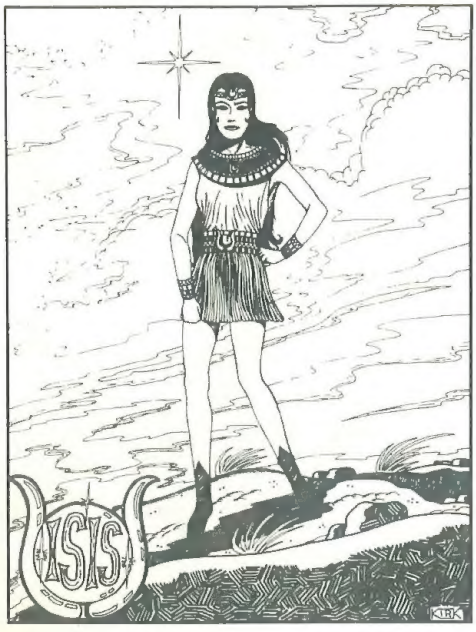
the
HEROIN
ODDITY
#10



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P.O. Box 10956
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Members of The Comics Heroines Fan Club and our other regular subscribers receive all subscription material produced by the AHPA, including our quarterly illustrated fiction magazine *THE ADVENTURESS* and occasional extra photo-offset publications, at special club rates as announced. (See page 3.)

The prices of AHPA issues, which may vary according to length and production costs, are charged to each subscriber's individual account and he is notified when his next payment is due.

The AHPA also offers a variety of other special-interest material in related fields on a special-order (non-subscription) basis to mature adventure-heroine fans. Send $1.00 if you want details and samples.

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Larry Heller: pages 26, 27
Tom Luth: pages 20↓, 22
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Wes Smith: *cover*
Carol Strickland: pages 6, 7, 8, 9
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Mercy Van Vlack: pages 4-5, 12↑, 20↑, 23, 32

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YES, BACK ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE!

THE HEROINE ADDICT: #1, 20 pages, 65¢; #2-9, 36/40 pages, $1.00; British Edition #1 (soon available), 16 pages, 50¢
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10% discount on orders of $3.00 or more!

CONTRIBUTIONS

Letters from fans and sample material from potential new contributors are welcome. We cannot return any material, however, unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope of sufficient size. Most published material is done on assignment by regular staff members.

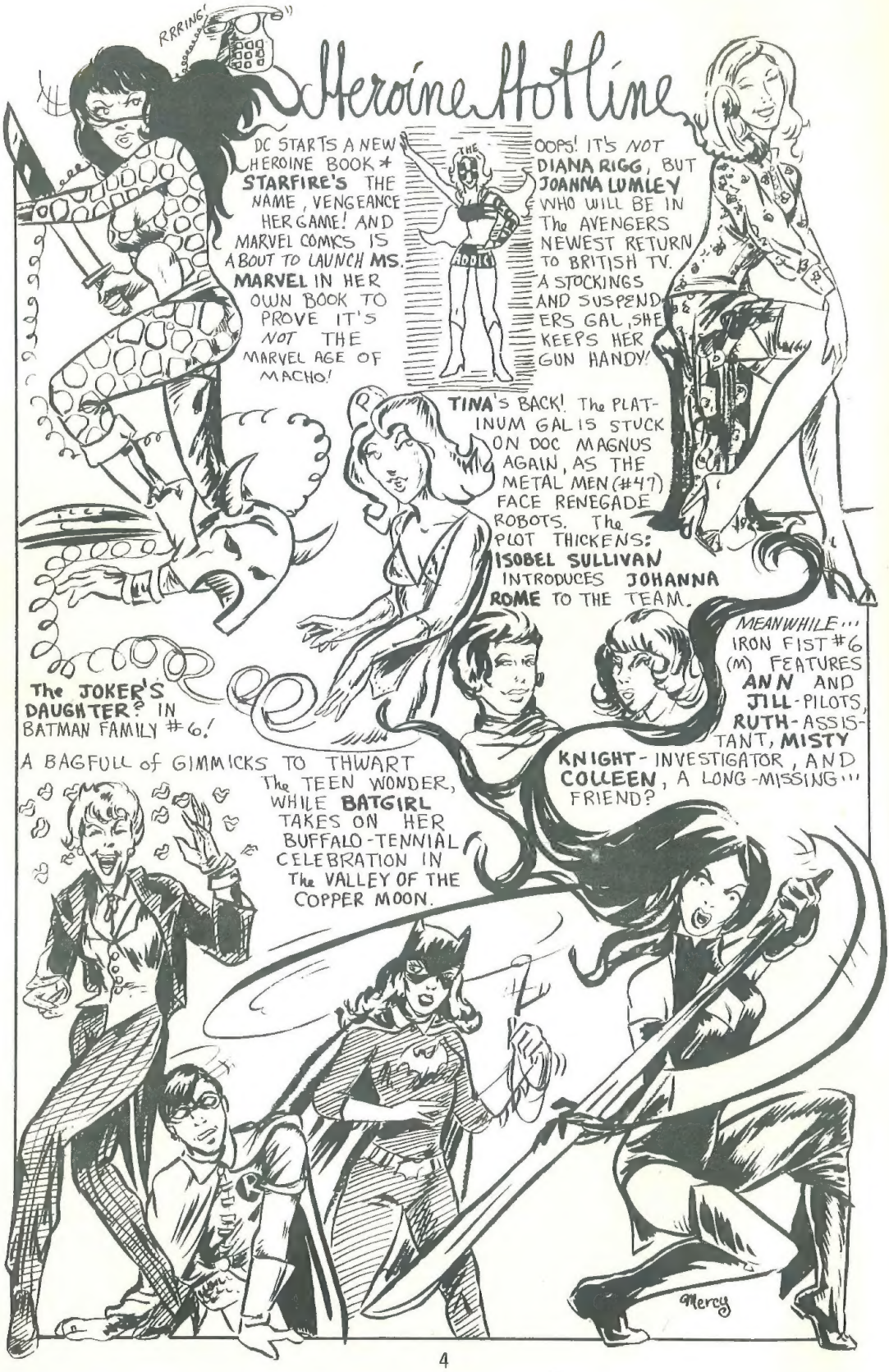
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Each subscriber's account has been charged $1.10 for this issue, including first class postage and handling. (Overseas charge is 60 pence by surface mail.)

If "PAYMENT NOW DUE" has been stamped on your THA envelope, your account does not show a sufficient balance to meet the cost of our next scheduled mailing. To avoid interruption in receiving all upcoming subscription material, be sure to renew your subscription now with a check for $3.30 or more made payable to our AHPA business manager, A.S. Turner.

Most members prefer to keep a larger balance in their accounts so they will have to send payments less frequently. In any case, do not forget to renew; we will not be able to mail you reminders! Fans in Great Britain should send inquiries or payments directly to our AHPA overseas representative: Martin Lock, 33 Chester Road, Northwood, Middx HA6 1BG, England.

Newcomers may order a single sample copy of THA or TA for $1.25 or send $3.30 or more to become regular subscribers.


Heroine Hotline
RRRING!
DC STARTS A NEW HEROINE BOOK * STARFIRE'S THE NAME, VENGEANCE HER GAME! AND MARVEL COMICS IS ABOUT TO LAUNCH MS. MARVEL IN HER OWN BOOK TO PROVE IT'S NOT THE MARVEL AGE OF MACHO!
THE ADDICTS
OOPS! IT'S NOT DIANA RIGG, BUT JOANNA LUMLEY WHO WILL BE IN The AVENGERS NEWEST RETURN TO BRITISH TV. A STOCKINGS AND SUSPENDERS GAL, SHE KEEPS HER GUN HANDY!
TINA'S BACK! The PLATINUM GAL IS STUCK ON DOC MAGNUS AGAIN, AS THE METAL MEN (#47) FACE RENEGADE ROBOTS. The PLOT THICKENS: ISOBEL SULLIVAN INTRODUCES JOHANNA ROME TO THE TEAM.
The JOKER'S DAUGHTER? IN BATMAN FAMILY #6!
MEANWHILE... IRON FIST #6 (M) FEATURES ANN AND JILL - PILOTS, RUTH - ASSISTANT, MISTY KNIGHT - INVESTIGATOR, AND COLLEEN, A LONG-MISSING... FRIEND?
A BAGFULL of GIMMICKS TO THWART The TEEN WONDER, WHILE BATGIRL TAKES ON HER BUFFALO-TENNIAL CELEBRATION IN The VALLEY OF THE COPPER MOON.
Mercy

THE OLD X-MEN RETURN TO BATTLE THE NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT X-MEN, IN #100, AS STORM AND JEAN (MARVEL GIRL) GREY FIGHT IN SPACE AGAINST THE STEVEN LANG ARMY OF MUTANTS! DRASTIC CHANGES TO COME IN JEAN'S MUTANT POWERS.
STORM!
AND IN THE EVER-ODD DEFENDERS #37, MEET A NEW ALLY TO REPLACE THE IMPRISONED VALKYRIE ... The RED GUARDIAN! A DOCTOR IMPORTED FROM RUSSIA TO AID The AILING NIGHTHAWK
SPEAKING OF TELEVISION: THE WONDER WOMAN MOVIES HAVE DONE WELL ENOUGH TO PROMPT MORE TV MOVIES ALONG THE SAME LINES NEXT SEASON. ISIS WILL SOON BE GETTING HER OWN COMIC BOOK.
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA #132 BRINGS IN SUPERGIRL, WONDER WOMAN, & BLACK CANARY TO HALT A PLOT AND THE QUEEN BEE FROM OUTER SPACE.
AQUA-GIRL IS BACK! "TULA" OF ATLANTIS, RETURNS WITH AQUALAD IN ADVENTURE COMICS (DC) #446, AND WITH MERA AND ARTHUR CURRY JR., IT LOOKS LIKE AN AQUA-FAMILY ISSUE! DO YOU THINK TULA MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO JOIN THE TEEN TITANS? SHE COULD REPLACE The ELUSIVE LILITH WHEN THE TITANS REGAIN THEIR COMIC SOONESTLY. ON THE ROSTER ARE MAL, ROBIN, WONDERGIRL, KID FLASH, SPEEDY, AND AQUALADDIO, TULA'S GUY.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1975

Another disappointment! Why does Tigra, the Were-Woman, seemed to be jinxed? I bought MARVEL CHILLERS #2 (December, 1975) today only to find another insipid Modred the Mystic story and another one of those apologetic blurbs at the end of the story (like I've been seeing for the past four months!), saying, "Next: Tigra Stalks Again!" Another two-month wait for Greer Nelson!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1975

Some January Marvel comics came out today, and the January Bullpen Page announced that "... with issue three of MARVEL CHILLERS ...TIGRA will be takin' over." Dare I count on what the Bullpen Page proclaims concerning Tigra? The lady hasn't seen any action in eleven months!

a second look at THE TIGRA PAPERS

by JEFF THOMPSON

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1975

At last! MARVEL CHILLERS #3 (February, 1976) featuring Tigra as written by Tony Isabella and illustrated by Will Meuginot, Frank Chiaramonte, and Sam Grainger!

The cover and the interior of CHILLERS #3 sported two different versions of the Were-Woman in regards to her costume (bikini and a tooth belt vs. bikini and baubles) and her stripes (black vs. russet). I much prefer the Tigra on the inside; the creature on the cover looked too much like a female reincarnation of Tony the Tiger of Kellogg's fame!

Before the sixteen-page story proper began, there was a beautiful splash page as well as a two-page recap of Greer Grant Nelson's life called "Prologue: The Three Faces of Tigra." Greer was seen in her Cat costume in two panels. In the story itself, "Holocaust Is Our Business," Tigra encountered a brutal man named Joshua Plague and his Rat Pack. (Why are "rats" attracted to Tigra? First Aeskla in MONSTERS UNLEASHED

#10 and now the Rat Pack!) Dr. Joanne Tumolo was included in a three-page scene with Greer which was played slightly tongue-in-cheek. The last panel was dramatic enough, although, because of the totally unexpected reappearances of Red Wolf and Lobo, the American Indian-and-wolf duo first seen in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #1 (November, 1971)!

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1975

I bought and read THE AVENGERS #144 (February, 1976) today and savored a fantastic development in the assemblers' storyline as well as that of The Cat/Tigra's. Steve Englehart greatly heightened the value and appeal of a woman named Patricia Walker Baxter, who previously had been seen in FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #3 (page three, panel two; this story was reprinted in FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #10); AMAZING ADVENTURES (featuring The Beast) #13, 14, & 15; amd THE AVENGERS #139, 140, 141, 142, & 143; by transforming her into—HELLCAT!

Patsy, trapped in the halls of the Brand Corporation with Captain America, Iron Man, The Scarlet Witch, The Vision, and The Beast, divulged her long-suppressed desire to become a super-heroine—and that wish was granted! For some as-yet unexplained reason, Captain America, Iron Man, and Patsy stumbled upon a costume resembling that of Greer Grant Nelson's when she was The Cat. (One difference was that the suit lacked the claw insignia on the front which was on The Cat's costume.) Patsy eagerly donned the outfit and Hellcat was born! (An interesting point is that, when Tony Isabella created The Cat, his original name for Greer was Hellcat. See "Tigra's Year," by Isabella, in GIANT-SIZE CREATURES #1.)

This is wonderful! Both Tigra and a Cat in action simultaneously! Needless to say, I can't wait to read THE AVENGERS #145 or MARVEL CHILLERS #4!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1975

This is incredible. Now I'm playing the waiting game for Hellcat.

Today (my birthday) I anxiously bought THE AVENGERS #145 (March, 1976), remembering that Patsy Walker's feline alter-ego was due to take its second bow. Instead—no Hellcat! No Moon Dragon! No Scarlet Witch (unless you want to count those five panels depicting Wanda sitting, standing, and walking)! And no Hellcat next issue either! The frequently-reared head of Marvel's DREADED DEADLINE DOOM precluded the furthering of the Hellcat/Squadron Supreme saga until the one hundred, forty-seventh issue. As the alternative to blank pages, next to it—another "death of an Avenger" story (as in THE AVENGERS #132)—and a two-parter, no less!—was substituted.

Oh, well, MARVEL CHILLERS #4 will be arriving on the stands very soon—but will Tigra be in it? Marvel has called (were)wolf once too often.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1976

What a cover! I'm writing about that of MARVEL CHILLERS #4 (April, 1976), which I bought today. Not only was sleek Tigra on hand, but so was the villain perfectly suited for her—one of Marvel's best-looking and

most-interesting rogues (in concept if not in use)—Kraven the Hunter!

Frank Robbins did an admirable artistic job on this story which was a bridge between the Joshua Plague story last issue and the one coming up next issue. Conspicuously absent, however, was Dr. Joanne Tumolo.

The story, "Night of the Huntress," made an effective contrast between Greer's humanity and savagery and was a capable showcase for her superhuman abilities—Spider-Man-like climbing, aerial acrobatics, and bar-bending.

Another magazine that came in today was THE AVENGERS #146, which featured the conclusion of the filler story begun last issue. Next issue, the Hellcat—finally!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1976

I bought THE AVENGERS #147 (May, 1976) today along with AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #156 and six other Marvel magazines. As to the Avengers' comic book (which I think has improved greatly recently), Moon Dragon only appeared in two panels, the Wasp not at all. However, Patsy Walker's new alter-ego, Hellcat, was very much in evidence despite the mere fifteen panels alotted her. Unfortunately, Hellcat only saw real action in the fourth, fifth, and seventh panels of page two—and was featured prominently on page fifteen, panel eight—but perhaps, at the conclusion of the assemblers' battle with the Squadron Supreme on the latter's home world, there will be more time for characterization and more of a spotlight on Mrs. Baxter.

Like she dominated the Jack Kirby cover of #147, the Avenger who actually starred in the "Crisis on Other-Earth" tale was the Scarlet Witch, illustrated extra-flatteringly by George Perez and Vincent Colletta. Toward the end of the story, Wanda discarded her bat-like headpiece for the Serpent Crown and I feel that her overall appearance looks much better hatless. The absence of that oversized barette would accentuate the Scarlet Witch's already-lovely face and hair.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1976

The fifth issue (June, 1976) of MARVEL CHILLERS arrived on the newsstands today and, not only was I treated to another fine Tigra story, but I was greeted by a whole galaxy of guest stars: Red Wolf, Lobo, Dr. Joanne Tumolo, Captain Marvel, the Cat People, Joshua Plague and the Rat Pack, and even a new villainess! Her name was Marie Duchailu, a.k.a. Number Two or Madame Menace. Ms. Duchailu, the former crime godmother of New Orleans proved to be a suitable sparring partner for Tigra, the Were-Woman.

Tony "The Tiger" Isabella returned to the writing chores this issue, as did the talented Will Meiginot to the artistic duties. Mr. Meuginot knows the secret of depicting Tigra both as a barbaric, senseless, almost werewolf-like animal (page six, panel two) and as a sensitive, feminine woman (page three, panel three). In page twenty-six's largest panel, Meuginot seemed to achieve both.

As I said in the first paragraph of this entry, dear old Joanne was back in this issue, resuming her role of Tigra's Aunt May. Red Wolf was

present also, but he seemed little more than excess baggage. This Rat Pack story has not really needed him (so far at least); perhaps he should have been saved for the vital character in Tigra's second saga, which is slated to begin in MARVEL CHILLERS #8.

An amusing plus was the fact that two of the three letters printed on the "Tigra Tracks" letters page were written by THE HEROINE ADDICT staffers—Bob Rodi and Scott Taylor!

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1976

Hellcat greeted me on the cover of the copy of THE AVENGERS #148 (June, 1976) which I bought today. What an achievement for Patsy—she beat out the Scarlet Witch for a place on the cover!

Speaking of Wanda, she (like Moon Dragon and The Wasp) played a very small (yet important) role this time around; it was Ms. Walker-Baxter who was the featured femme. On pages seven and ten, Hellcat acrobatically dodged Cap'n Hawk, singlehandedly defeated the overconfident Amphibion, and aided The Beast in felling Tom Thumb. She did the last through use of her grappling claws, which are of a different design than those on Greer-Cat's old costume. Incidentally, it has not yet been explained what a costume similar to The Cat's was doing laying out in plain view in the Brand labyrinths.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1976

THE AVENGERS #149 (July, 1976) appeared on the newsstands today, complete with Hellcat in action gracing its cover. A more-than-minor victory for Mrs. Baxter was that the slightly tedious Other-Earth saga concluded last issue, and Hellcat was still thickly involved in this issue, which was the beginning of a new storyline for the Avengers with Orka, the Killer Whale, as the villain.

Could it be that Steve Englehart is partial to the red-tressed heroine? (There are so many Marvel characters who fit that description, as Scott Gibson pointed out in THE HEROINE ADDICT #3.) I hope so; it was Tony Isabella's special interest in The Cat/Tigra which garnered her continued appearance in Marvel Comics. With the caucus concerning new Avengers coming up next issue in #150, Hellcat stands a fairly good chance of becoming one. I'd much rather see her as a card-carrying member than the wearisome Wasp!

Hellcat once again stole the show in this issue through her two-page, violent, and emotional confrontation with Captain "Buzz" Baxter, her ex-husband (their marriage was chronicled in AMAZING ADVENTURES #13, 14, & 15 back in 1972) and her scenes this issue and last wherein she was pleased with her frivolous demeanor during combat—"just like Spider-Man!"

Ever since her emergence in Marvel magazines four years ago, The Cat has been called "the female Spider-Man" and "the female Daredevil" by some. Now there might be those who are discrediting Tigra and her supposed originality. I for one enjoyed The Cat and like her even better now as Tigra, the Were-Woman. I think that transforming Patricia Walker Baxter into a second Cat was a wise move. Here's to Tigra's series in MARVEL CHILLERS enjoying long life and to the inclusion of the Hellcat in THE AVENGERS #150 and far beyond. To see either or both of these fine heroines go the way of Thundra, Zephyr, and Mantis would be too much to bear.

JEFF THOMPSON 6807 Pennywell Drive Nashville, Tennessee 37205

HEROINE ✿ PROFILE

STARFIRE

Starfire was born into slavery, and raised a slave. For the first eighteen years of her life, all she knew was servitude. She was told, and she believed, that mankind was destined for slavery, and was happy with it.

However, Starfire was, from the start, a "priveleged" one, chosen by the Mygors (the alien race which overthrew humanity) for some undefined purpose. She accepted this, also. She humbled herself, resigned herself to a life she believed she was destined for...

...until she was told that her "purpose" was to serve as the mate of Sookaroth, the grotesque Mygor leader. A fighting spirit was born in Starfire, a spirit which gave her the strength to act independently. She fled.

In her flight, she once again faced the Mygors, but was rescued by Dagan, a human preist. He took her to a secluded campsite, and became her teacher and, consequently, her lover, showing her both her value as a human being and as a member of the human race. Her personal liberation resulted in her ability to act on her own, to be her own master.

When Dagan was killed by Sookaroth, Starfire assumed the role of revolutionary, of savior, leading human slaves against the Mygors. She killed Sookaroth, denying him mercy with these words; "... After keeping my entire race in chains, after treating me like a household pet...after murdering the man I love... you dare demand mercy? In a word, Sookaroth...no!"

Her victory over Sookaroth was a symbolic victory of slave over master. Starfire instilled humanity with hope.

Starfire is a symbol, and, as such, has a destiny which overwhelms her personhood. However, being newly liberated, and having come to realize her value as a person, can she accept the responsibility of being a symbol? Can she trade one type of slavery for another? Or does being a symbol coincide with her personal value system? She may never know. A symbol has no time for finding answers...

OPERATION: DELUGE

bob rodi

Back again, after a one-issue absence. Hope you didn't stop writing just coz we weren't here to remind you.

Congratulations to all who O:D'd Isis, the Saturday-morning heroine. She'll soon be getting her own DC book, after a guest-shot in SHAZAM! #25. ISIS will be by Denny O'Neil (writer/editor), and Ric Estrada and Wally Wood (artists). Isn't it odd that in DC's 40-year history, only four heroines have had their own books (WONDER WOMAN, LOIS LANE, SUPERGIRL, RIMA) and yet an unheard-of TWO will be getting their own this year? (ISIS and STARFIRE). Support the ladies, with your small change and your letters.

At Marvel, rumor has it that Tigra will be booted out of MARVEL CHILLERS, just as she gets a good artist (John Byrne). Write Roy Thomas, who will take over MC, and complain, good and loud... On a happier note, Moondragon and Hellcat, the Avengers recruits who didn't make it, will be appearing in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT this summer, which should please their many fans. Again, LoCing this tryout will hasten them into their own books.

Wonder Woman is becoming an in-demand guest-star these days, with appearances in FREEDOM FIGHTERS and BRAVE & BOLD upcoming. Keep writing, friends...it's working! -Hola!

CLUB NEWS!

And Other Pertinent Points →→ by Al Tanner, editor

The first British edition of THA has been published in London by our overseas representative Martin Lock. Copies have already been mailed to all subscribers to Martin's own fanzine, BEMUSING MAGAZINE. Those few of us in America who have received copies by air mail feel that it's a very laudable issue indeed. Our compliments not only to Martin for his excellent planning and layout, but also to all the American *and* British contributors whose work is represented!

Copies of the sixteen-page issue are en route to me by surface mail, and within a month or so I should have them and be able to send them to all of you regular AHPA subscribers over here. I expect to be able to set the price at as little as 50¢.

Almost all the material for THE ADVENTURESS #4 is already on hand, and the issue will probably be published a bit *ahead* of schedule. (Yes, I know such a move is *unheard* of in the fanzine field...but remember, I did say "probably.") Two brand new series will be initiated in TA #4: a unique mythology-based "Inanna" series created through considerable research by the innovative Frank Travellin, Jr., and a semi-humorous series by Mercy Van Vlack featuring none other than Chefac, our CHFC "trade-mark heroine." Both series will be in the strip format and will add to the variety of material spotlighted in TA issues.

I want to take this opportunity to give everyone advance notice that I will be moving to the deep south sometime in August. (Yes, Lasso Lass has escaped again, and Shamrock has enlisted my aid in searching for her.) So the AHPA will have a new mailing address after this summer, and I'll pass it on to everyone as soon as possible. In the meantime, however, don't hesitate to continue to write to me here at the familiar Box 10956; all first class mail addressed to me here will be forwarded to me even *after* I move. But do switch to my new address when you receive it.

My move may or may not entail some delay in the publication of THA #11. I'll have to try to find a satisfactory new printer, and there may be other complications involved. So if your copy of #11 arrives late even though you have a paid-up subscription, the reason will probably be related in some way to my change of locale. It will not mean that THA has "gone bi-annual" as a legion of other fanzines have tended to do.

Among the promising new artists who have been submitting interesting samples of their work lately is Donald Naso, whose Namorita appears at the right. We'll certainly keep such people in mind when regular spots on the AHPA staff open up or when extra illustrating assignments become available. It's been interesting to discover just how many artists are enthusiastic about working in the adventure-heroine field.

Speaking of newcomers, maybe

you noticed on the page-three masthead that Richard Morrissey has just been appointed our newest AHPA department editor. He won't be writing regularly for THA (although he is under contract to write a series of special-order booklets for us), but he'll be doing some layout work at times and no doubt submitting an occasional article of his own. If you're into fandom at all, you know that Rich is editor-publisher of BATMANIA in his own right, and of course you've also seen a couple of his articles in past issues of THA.

In our fifth auction of original AHPA artwork, readers bought 31 of the 41 published illos offered for a total of $55.25. Our sixth auction is a "biggie" of course, for it includes the originals of all 24 of the full-page or double-page illustartions that were published in THE HEROINE ADDICT'S ART PORTFOLIO #1. Don't forget that the bidding deadline is June 15.

As I've said before, our artists greatly appreciate your bids for our published artwork since they receive 47 per cent of the selling prices of their own illos. As publisher, I also appreciate your bidding because the auctions provide a very-necessary part of the overall AHPA publishing budget. (If you have the mistaken idea that our subscription prices are producing a handsome net profit for me, just check on the cost/price situation with any publisher or editor in the fanzine field.) By the way, the total gross income from our first five auctions has been $483.80, and 249 illos or sets of illos were offered for sale. No, it's not a great deal of money, but it has been a major factor in keeping us solvent as a special-interest publishing organization.

SCOTT TAYLOR'S

- HEROINE GALLERY -

Tara, of the Herculoids, appeared both on a Saturday morning program and in Gold Key's SUPER TV HEROES title. She, her husband Zandor, and their son Dorno had no special powers, but had a group of pets with amazing properties. Tara is seen here on the back of Gloop, or is it Gleep?, one of their protoplasmic pets.

If you've sent in bids, but have been outbid by some other collector in every case, I hope you'll keep trying. It might be a good idea to try bidding on some illos which you personally liked, but which you think might not attract too much bidding attention from other readers; sometimes you can "steal" an illo that way, as a couple of you have already discovered! Incidentally, high-bidders sometimes receive surprise bonuses in the form of *unpublished* original *color* illos which Mercy Van Vlack and other AHPA artists have been generous enough to donate for this purpose.

I guess it's about time I make my periodic - or should I say periodical - apology for not being able to find time to reply individually to all the letters and notes I receive. I hope you can understand that, as much as I do enjoy hearing from you, it's just impossible for me to answer most letters individually. The AHPA staff is functioning quite smoothly right now, it's true, with department editors performing their roles with a minimum of direction from me. On the other hand, we are now in the process of

developing and marketing our new special-order line and my overall workload is, if anything, even heavier than ever. But even if you don't get any personal reply from me, your views are defiinitely considered with interest here.

I have, of course, been doing my best to keep up with the job of mailing out our 50¢ packages (and more-complete $1 packages) of photocopied information and illustrated samples of special-order material to all those CHFC subscribers and others who have ordered them. (By the way, due to the actual copying and mailing costs involved, I am making no significant profit on these introductory packages.) Our various offers have been causing quite a stir among serious collectors in the special-interest areas which are obviously involved.

As for the promised announcements of illustrated special-order booklets which are available, the first set of these should soon be ready for mailing to everyone who has claimed a spot on our special-order mailing list.

OVERSEAING THE SCENE

Should Moon Dragon be wanting a beau,
Off to DC she should "baldly" go
To arrange a blind date
With a scientist great
Called Lex Luthor; he'd suit her, I know.

- Kathleen Glancy
Edinburgh, Scotland

For the reasons I've explained before, I'm not going to go into detail in THA regarding our special-order offerings. But since some of you have been quite impatient to get such specific news, I briefly point out here that we do have one booklet already available. It's an 8-page adventure strip by Jerri Blue, whose professional AHPA custom-illustrations have been well received by collectors who can afford to invest in original artwork of this type and quality. In this adventure-booklet series, Jerri will be doing with the heroine what DC would do with Wonder Woman if they weren't producing their material primarily for young, immature comics buyers. (That statement is not meant to be a "come-on" type of sales pitch, but is simply an effort to offer as brief a description as possible.) If you'd like to get this 8½-by-11 photocopied booklet immediately on a pre-announcement basis, order SB-J1 and inclose a payment of $2.50, which will include postage and handling.

Speaking of postage, the government must be intent upon driving *all* publishers *out of business* the way it's increasing postage rates. (And don't bet against Uncle Sam's chances of succeeding in doing exactly that.) Despite the delays and uncertainties involved in using third class mail, we will consider holding our subscription rates down by going to that alternative if first class rates go any higher and if the majority of you feel that we should make such a decision. (Second class mail? Forget it! No way are we going to get roped into *that* kind of time-consuming regimen-

THIS LADY HAS CLASS!!!

I'M HER CREATOR, TED DELORME, AND I'M GONNA SELL HER. NO, I'M NOT REVIVING SLAVERY, I'M SELLING *THE RAVEN ART KIT.* YOU GET:

★ A PAGE OF ORIGINAL ART FROM *RAVEN'S* FIRST CHAPTER (8"x 12", THE ONLY ART FOR *THE ADVENTURESS* DONE IN THIS LARGE SIZE)!!!

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tation and red tape!) For the time being, we'll stick to first class mail because we know you want to be sure of *receiving* our issues, and of seeing them within a reasonable time after their publication.

The new *overseas* air mail rates, however, are so absurdly high that we have no choice but to offer overseas subscriptions only via surface mail. Overseas subscribers please note that this is is the *last* issue of either THA or TA that I will send you (at a net loss to the AHPA) by air mail. All future issues will be sent to you by surface mail at the announced subscription rates, which will involve a delivery time of from four to six weeks. (Okay, if you *insist* upon air mail delivery - and I go on record as recomending against it at this point - you *can* get your AHPA issues within a matter of days; but we'll have to establish a charge of $2.00 (one pound) per copy, a price which I don't think I'll even mention on our indicia pages. But unless you specifically request air mail, you'll be receiving all future issues by surface mail at the rate stated on page 2.) On the brighter side, surface mail does seem to be arriving more quickly - within a month or so - than we had been led to believe it would.

As we've been expanding into wider areas of fandom, I've been hearing from some people who want to subscribe to THE ADVENTURESS, but not to THA, and vice-versa. Okay, I'll make a formal statement that such a limited subscription is possible, providing you let me know your specific wishes. If you like THE ADVENTURESS but aren't a comics fan in the sense that you can enjoy THA - or if you're one who values THA as a fanzine but has no interest in original fiction as presented in TA - you *can* subscribe to one and not the other. But please don't make such a choice unless it's really a crucial matter to you! Frankly, we *need* the support of as many heroine boosters as possible in both of our basic AHPA publishing areas. So far, the great majority of our subscribers have been happy to recieve both THA

and TA, and this is an important factor in our overall publishing effort. You'll be in the minority if you don't continue to give us your full support as a full-fledged subscriber.

I'm sorry to have to point out that assistant editor Steve Johnson's first "Fan Focus" feature does not appear in this issue as was expected, but has had to be delayed until THA #11. This feature will, however, be designed to be a means through which adventure-heroines fans can become actively involved in exercising their interests in a variety of ways, using THA as the focus of their concern with the promotion of the heroine as a vital character in the various media. *Your* ideas should and, we hope, *will* be reflected in the projects, awards, contests, etc. which are focused through our future "Fan Focus" features. If you're ready to "get involved" as an active fan, here's your invitation: write to Steve or me. (If you're just "a passive fan" who enjoys seeing what others produce, that's okay too: we know you'll still enjoy Steve's FF pages. We're not pushing you to participate; we're just asking you to do so if you have some ideas which might be worth sharing with other fans.)

By the way, many of our current subscribers have never mentioned just where or how they first learned about the AHPA. Next time you write, it would useful to us if you would give us this information where you are concerned.

Our summer supererogate salute goes to the pair of heroines at the right as AHPA resident caricaturist Chris Padovano comments, "Storm's origin appears soon, and Marvel Girl changes in more ways than one." Speaking of Chris, those of you who have been urging him to depict the showdown between Chang Chick and Iron Miss which his strip in THE ADVENTURESS #1 led up to will be glad to know that the epic encounter will indeed take place on four pages in TA #4. Wow! What? Who?

In response to a number of readers' suggestions, we will soon create a new cover logo for THA issues. Since our readers seem to prefer a clearer, more easily read logo design, we will try to oblige after a discussion of the matter at the up-coming staff miniconference in Charlotte, N.C. You can expect to see the new design presented on the #11 cover.

Any of you AHPA subscribers who would like to subscribe also to the British fanzine BEMUSING MAGAZINE can do so without the extra trouble and expense of sending international money orders to Martin Lock in London. In accordance with a reciprocal arrangement I have made with Martin, you can simply send your payments to me and I'll notify him to credit your BEMUSING account. The sub rate is $2 for three issues by air mail; or if you will settle for delayed delivery, you can pay only $1 for three issues sent by surface mail (sea). The zine's standard length is twenty pages of approximately the same page size as THA. It's a general fanzine, one of the most popular in the U.K. from what I've heard; and in my opinion, Martin does an outstanding job with the layout and editing. The comics news and reviews may be a bit outdated for U.S. fans, but on the other hand, you might be interested in sampling British reaction to American comics, not to mention hearing a lot about what is going on among U.K. fandom. If you're a fan of comics in general, I think you would find a trial sub well worthwhile.

Our first AHPA subscriber in *Ireland* turns out to be fan-artist Leslie Stannage. If he'll send us some "authentic" sketches of *his* version of Shamrock and Pixie, we'll be pleased to let you see them in THA!

ESCAPE from the VAULT of VILLAINESSES

by Dwayne Best

Like several other heroines from Marvel (see THA #6), Moon Dragon began her comics career as a villainess. But there are so few similarities between the character as she first appeared and the heroine we know today that I would almost venture to say that they were two separate characters. I seriously doubt that the woman who appeared in IRON MAN #54 was ever intended to become one of Marvel's most popular heroines, who even now is being considered for Avengers membership.

Her name was Madame MacEvil. Dressed in a pink costume remarkably like the one Moon Dragon wears today, she stormed her way through the story, engaging in belligerent banter with a computer (the entity, we are told, responsible for her villainous name). Together they forced a conflict between Iron Man and the Sub-Mariner as a sort of "experiment." She appeared to be a very competent scientist who would stop at nothing to carry out her studies. She spoke in Standard Villain, thanks to the scripting of Mike Friedrich. I remember being interested by her strange appearance, and eagerly awaited a rematch between her and Iron Man or Namor. In true super-villain style she had sworn revenge against those two heroes for disrupting her experiment. Another villainess, I thought, how nice. Marvel has so few.

So, naturally I was happy to see her on the cover of DAREDEVIL #105, almost a year later. The woman inside, though, was not Madame MacEvil, regardless of what the cover said. First of all, her costume was now green. She no longer talked like a villainess, but more like a denizen of another world. And strangest of all, she now had pointed ears, even though it was revealed in that issue that she had been born on Earth. (As you have probably noticed, the pointed ears were soon dropped.) Although she claimed to be Madame MacEvil, the resemblance in all but appearance was slight. If she hadn't been so distinctive, no one would have believed that it could be the same person.

Her origin, given in DD #105, rather clumsily incorporated the Madame MacEvil period as part of her experiments against Thanos. Why, then, would she vow revenge against possible allies? After a long look at the Madame MacEvil/Moon Dragon, story, the inconsistencies become more and more apparent. Someone at Marvel liked th the exotic appearance of this minor character and decided to use her in the Thanos War. Since her origin had never been revealed, why not start over again? Why not, indeed? Moon Dragon, as she appears today, has become a far more interesting character than Madame MacEvil ever could have been.

THE HEROINE REVUE

By Scott Gibson

A ROSE AND THORN BY ANY OTHER NAME..

Although the noteworthy ROSE AND THORN strip first saw print in October of 1970, the character(s) had been conceived by writer Robert Kanigher almost 30 years before. He created her as a villainess for the original Flash, and she appeared, complete with her split personality, in FLASH COMICS #89. After that one-shot, she enjoyed total retirement until Kanigher's revampment of the character made her a heroine, beginning in LOIS LANE #105's "Death House Honeymoon." Lois Lane and Clark Kent were working in the Daily Planet offices when an airplane dumped a load of pamphlets down into the streets of Metropolis. Clark was able to grab one as it drifted by the Planet window. It read:

> I, The Thorn--warn the Infamous 100 that I will hunt them down, one by one, to the DEATH!

Lois found The Thorn's warning romantic. Clark found it foolhardy. "She hasn't a chance against The 100!" he predicted. "Those hoods have a finger in every racket in the area!"

Later, as Clark patrolled the city as Superman, he came upon The Thorn battling three thugs. Helping her kayo the crooks, The Man of Steel asked her, "Who are you? Where do you come from? Why-?" But The Thorn's only reply was a curt "Escort these punks to jail, Superman! They were sent by The 100 to spread their poison to the neighborhood!" Then she disappeared into the shadows, leaving The Man of Steel holding the unconcious thugs.

Meantime, Lois, covering a news story elsewhere, had been abducted by other 100 members. With her hands bound, the girl reporter was shoved into a car which the criminals then pushed into the river. Lois screamed for Superman, but it was The Thorn who appeared out of nowhere, dove into the river and pulled Lois from the auto. As the women surfaced, they were greeted by a hail of bullets. "Thorn! Your...rescue of me will cost you your life!" Lois gasped.

"I won't die! Not until I track down The 100--to the last leech!" insisted the green-garbed heroine. Superman arrived then, kayoing the vicious hoods. When at last he turned to the women, Lois was there alone. Thorn had slipped away again, into the night. But instead of the usual 'End' caption which normally caps a final panel, there was a blurb which announced:

> This is ONLY the END of the BEGINNING, readers! Turn the pages! Follow The THORN around the bend in the road--to unlock secrets--too searing ever to be revealed before!

While the words read like something out of TRUE CONFESSIONS, DC Comics never extended a more exciting or worthwhile invitation. The Thorn's first solo adventure began 5 pages further into the book. Written by Kanigher and drawn by Andru & Esposito (the same team who had handled the lead Lois story, and the same team who would guide ROSE & THORN through its first half-dozen adventures), "Night of the Thorn, Day of the Rose" would answer the puzzles that had arisen in the

lead-Lois story...

Detective Sgt. Phil Forrest and his partner Danny Stone, investigators on the Metropolis Police Force, were cracking down on the 100. The results were that, one evening, Det. Forrest's car was pulled up from the bottom of the harbor--with his body inside. When the Sgt.'s daughter Rose found out, she became hysterical and had to be hospitalized. While sedated, the girl rose from her bed and began beating her fists against the wall. An observing doctor diagnosed the action as repressed hostility: As Rose Forrest, the young woman was incapable of violence; thus, a subconcious and more violent personality began emerging as an outlet for Rose's frustrations. The doctor predicted that, in time, this secondary personality would vanish. Little did he know that time would only serve to reinforce this violent nature, eventually building it into an independent character.

When she was released from the hospital and returned to her home, Rose began rising from her bed each evening in the same type of somnambulistic state. She would walk from her bedroom, through a concealed door into a narrow passageway which led to the abandoned building next to her own brownstone. The building had, at one time, been a costume shop. Once there, Rose would don a long auburn wig (in direct contrast to her own, pixie-short blond hair) and an outfit that had been left behind in the old shop. The costume was a brief, dark-green jumpsuit with a thorn belt, green hip-boots and finger-less gloves. Dressed in these garments, she would emerge on the street as--The Thorn! Fighting the minions of The 100 by night, the heroine would always return to her hideout shortly before dawn, retracing her steps back to her bed where she would awake as Rose, totally oblivious to her nocturnal activities. This first story concluded with Thorn saving her father's partner Danny Stone from yet more 100 henchmen (saving Stone would become one of Thorn's regular duties, performed almost as a ritual in nearly every episode). In addition to having been Phil Forrest's partner, Daniel Stone was also Rose's boyfriend.

One other touch of bitter irony inserted in this initial tale was Rose's new job--she began working as a secretary to Vince Dennis, a funeral director whose business was actually a front for The 100. Dennis, in fact, was one of those members responsible for the death of Rose's father.

The second installment of the R&T series in LOIS LANE #106 posed the question, "Where Do You Plant A Thorn?" In another attempt to "silence" Det. Stone once again, The 100 accidentally caused the death of Rose's dog. This sent Thorn into action again, capturing the men responsible just as they had Danny cornered and were going to gun him down.

Before dashing into the night, The Thorn stole a kiss from Stone. "If you only knew," she thought as she kissed him, "How lonely it is to be a Thorn!" That line was enough to send even the most devoted R&T fans screaming into the hills. Fortunately, this type of pedantic and meandering dialogue was soon toned down somewhat.

#107 introduced The Thorn's arsenal of weapons, a collection of gimmicks that would have left even TV's Batman envious. In only 8 pages, the Floral Fury utilized concussion-thorns, smoke-thorns and thorn-nails. Yet even with this overabundance of thorn-derring do, the story was a good one--the best so far. It was in this tale that Thorn began leaving a <u>number</u> behind on each 100 member she captured. Since the organization derived its name from the fact that exactly 100 criminals comprised the syndicate of crime, it appeared that all Thorn needed to do was to capture all one hundred of them. Later, it was established that the organization was replacing members nearly as fast as Thorn took them out of action. This seemed to assure the heroine of a longer career.

#108's "Mourn For The Thorn!" featured cameo appearances by Lois and Superman. The Thorn used a daring if foolish ploy to round up more 100 members. The plan entailed her spending some time in a coffin, pretending to be dead. The entire story was incredible--yet author Kanigher had repeatedly pointed out that Thorn's mental stability was shaky, at best...perhaps it was in character for her to take such an insane risk.

Actually, Kanigher's characterization of the Floral Fury was quite good; detailed and intriguing. Just as Rose was quite unaware of her more violent personality, The Thorn never gave any indication that she knew about Rose's exsistence. On occasion, she did refer to "her other life," but said she could not fully recall it. The one common link between the "two" women was that both claimed Det. Phil Forrest as their father. Later on, the series would begin a more intricate study of Thorn's personality—something we will study later.

LOIS LANE #'s 109-110 featured R&T's first continued adventure. The tale was an odd mixture of crimefighting and supernatural antics in which The Thorn helped the ghost of a murdered woman to avenge her death at the hands of a man belonging to The 100.

#111's Thorn adventure was highlighted by the artwork of Gray Morrow, whose intense, realistic style made "Law of The 100!" one of Thorn's best stories. Dick Giordano assumed artistic duties with the tale's concluding half in #112. His work, too, was superlative. Giordano remained as the strip's artist for the next several issues.

#112 was notable also because we began to see Thorn's personality invading Rose's. When Danny Stone took Rose to a rock concert, they were menaced by yet more 100 hoods. In a beautifully-rendered sequence, Rose and her alter-ego battled for supremacy--The Thorn won, and went into action, disarming the thugs and rendering them helpless--unfortunately she was still dressed as Rose, leaving boyfriend Danny astonished at her unprecedented show of violence. Once the danger had passed, Rose reverted to her more gentle nature, as suprised and puzzled as Danny to her sudden instinctive defense techniques.

Thorn's first cover appearance was LL #114 (#113 had been a giant-sized all-reprint issue) when she and Lois shared a booklength adventure. During the course of the tale, Superman offered to sponsor Thorn for membership in the Justice League, but The Floral Fury declined.

It was back to solo adventures with #115's "The Computer Crooks," which pitted The Thorn against her first costumed foe, an old Batman villainess, Poison Ivy! Ivy seemed a logical antagonist for Thorn, and indeed; the two worked beautifully together (or beautifully <u>against</u> each other might be a better choice of words) in this issue and the next.

As of #112, the LOIS LANE book had expanded to 52 pages. This extra room, coupled with R&T's evident popularity were the reasons that Thorn's adventures expanded from 7 and 8 pages to 10 pages.

With issue #117, Rich Buckler began drawing the series. The next two installments had absolutely nothing to do with The 100; Rose was taking a vacation, and had rented a house at the beach. Unfortunately, both segments lacked any real direction or motivation, resulting in a rather uninteresting two-issue adventure.

The Thorn was back battling The 100 in #119. Again, she found herself saving Det. Stone, but not before he was seriously injured by a sniper's bullet. The story continued next month in "Not All Thorns Come From Roses!" Oddly our heroine never <u>did</u> capture the sniper who shot Danny; instead, she became involved with another sniper, and--another Thorn!

The second costumed villainess that The Floral Fury battled was another woman dressed exactly like herself, and also calling herself Thorn, too. The only visible difference between the two was that the evil Thorn had red hair. The story gave readers the origin of our heroine's costume. Ironically, it had been designed by a small-time hood whose girlfriend would wear it to steal from (you guessed it!) The 100. However, his plans were abandoned when he later joined the criminal organization himself. His girlfriend kept the Thorn costume however, and later passed it on to her daughter. A duplicate outfit was left in the designer's now-closed costume shop (which was in the building connected to Rose Forrest's home, where Rose would walk in her sleepwalking-type state each evening). Forgotten and gathering cobwebs, there the costume remained until Rose found it one evening, and began wearing it as a heroine. The story went on to have the good-Thorn rescue the bad-Thorn from being killed. And though grateful to her savior, the red-haired, not-so-nice Thorn vowed that she would return to end the other Floral Fury's career someday.

LOIS LANE #121 cover-featured Thorn once more. She made only a brief appearance in the Lois story, and her own strip was just 3 pages long—it served only as a teaser to the next issue's...

...booklength Lois and Thorn team-up, "77 Coffins," the story in which The 100 was finally quoshed. Aided by Superman, the women pulled a larger computer from the bottom of Metropolis Bay—a computer whose memory banks contained <u>all</u> knowledge of The 100 and its workings. (The computer had been utilized by Poison Ivy in LL #115-116, in her attempt to destroy The Thorn). Indeed, it was the resurrection of this machine that did effect the final defeat of The 100—but neither Lois nor Thorn actually played a big role in the action. Superman and Lois' recently-acquired roommate Julie were more responsible for kayoing the crooks. Julie in fact, saved both Thorn's and Lois's lives by rescuing The Man of Steel from eternal suspended animation, making her the <u>real</u> heroine of the day.

Rich Buckler's last stint as artist of R&T came with #121. Beginning with LL #123, Don Heck became the series' regular penciller, and he would remain as such up until Thorn's final adventure. Since The 100 had been disposed of, the funeral home where Rose was employed (and which had merely been a "front" for The 100 anyway) was "put out of business." Consequently, #123 opened with Ms. Forrest looking for a new job. The story was intriguing largely because The Thorn began taking over Rose in the daytime, too. The heroine was no longer content with living a half-life; she wanted total control of her body at all times. As she dressed in her crimefighting togs, Thorn determined, "There! Now I'm rid of the weak sister Rose—hopefully for good!" It was not to be, though. Now, Rose would sometimes surface during the nights while Thorn was on patrol. This made for a confused heroine, indeed.

Unfortunately, with the destruction of The 100, the strip began to wander aimlessly. There was no continuity between stories, no driving motivation to keep The Thorn crimefighting. The magazine had now changed editors (from Bridwell to Dorothy Woolfolk to Kanigher himself) and both Lois and Thorn were suffering for it. Thorn's adventures were back down to 7 pages in length again. Cary Bates began writing some of her adventures now. Each story had Rose beginning a new job, then going into action as Thorn, and finally, being fired from the job. Here was redundant formula-writing at its worst. #124 had Rose working on an automobile assembly line; #125's "Cure or Kill" saw her struck by a car (while looking for employment, natch) and winding up in the clutches of a mad scientist, just as all heroes and heroines must eventually do.

Rose's most promising job came in #126. "Bullets and Ballots," written by Kanigher had Rose working as

a secretary to a Black congressional candidate, Sylvia Charlton. The story was a good one, and Rose's job seemed to offer a lot of promising possibilities for future plots, but no; by the next issue, Rose was unemployed again. Now, however, puzzled by her many recent mental lapses, Ms. Forrest decided to consult a psychiatrist. She went to a free clinic and met a Dr. Roberts, but before she could begin any treatments, the Thorn-half of her personality took over and she dashed out of the office to help rescue people involved in a car-accident right outside.

For some time now, readers of the Lois Lane lead feature had known that The 100 was back in business again. It was inevitable that Thorn should finally confront them once more, which she did in "Edge of Madness" (LL #128). She discovered that a mental hospital was serving as a coverup for more insidious 100 operations, and tore the place open. In addition, The Thorn made an appearance on the cover of #128, although she did not show up in the Lois story.

In #129's "Million Dollar Night," the Thorn became a millionairess when she rescued a little old lady from some muggers. The old lady, grateful for The Floral Fury's assistance, left a million dollars in The Thorn's name at her bank. All she had to do was to come in and claim it. But whether she ever did or not we can't be sure. For, the next issue, LOIS LANE #130's "Nightmare Alley" was the last Rose & Thorn story. For the first time, The Thorn revealed her secret identity to someone--one of The 100's hoods--a man who had agreed to give Danny Stone the names of the men who killed Phil Forrest. That man later saved The Thorn's life, at the expense of his own. His death left the identities of Forrest's killers a secret, but the tale ended with Thorn reaffirming her vow to hunt the murderers down.

This seemed hardly like a suitable conclusion to the series; the ending of that tale seemed to indicate that many new Rose & Thorn adventures were yet to come. But none did. Instead, the strip was replaced by Lois reprints and adventures of yet another reporter on the Daily Planet staff, a woman named Melba Manton.

Disconcerted readers wrote to Kanigher, asking for the series' return. But there was never any indication or explanation to <u>why</u> R&T had been dis-continued. And never any promise for her return.

Thorn's career lasted until April of 1973 and encompassed exactly thirty issues of LOIS LANE. She never appeared outside the pages of that book. One might have hoped that The Thorn's torment had been relieved with the total and irrevocable dissolution of The 100, so that the character could rest in peace. But hope springs eternal, and since we know that Thorn is still out there somewhere, still hunting down her father's killers, who knows when she might return in the pages of some DC comic...?

* In MARVEL TEAM-UP #4 (featuring Spider-Man and The X-Men) when Professor X contacts Jean Grey and tells her that she is needed as Marvel Girl, Jean is sitting casually on her couch reading a book. But she is wearing her Marvel Girl outfit as if she knew something was going to happen, and she wanted to be ready. <u>However</u>: When Jean reports to the Professor for action, she was dressed in street clothes <u>instead</u>, and never re-donned her costume during the story. Talk about reversal of roles...

* When Big Barda and her Female Furies accompanied Mr. Miracle on his return to Earth in MR. MIRACLE #10-11, one of the Furies disappeared. Mad Harriet was shown disembarking from the spaceship once it reached Earth, but then she was never shown in any subsequent issue. With a face like Harriet's, it would be hard to melt into a crowd-where'd she go?

Will Wanda make it? AVENGERS #150 was to have the final decision regarding membership, but events at Marvel have seemingly delayed the story. Remember, there are four heroines in the running: Scarlet Witch, Moondragon, the Wasp, and Hellcat. It would be too much to hope that all four remain, and someone will have to be disappointed by the results, but I'm hoping for at least three out of the four.

*****

Tigra (in MARVEL CHILLERS) and Red Sonja (in MARVEL FEATURE) have lasted past the four-issue mark. As you may remember, Marvel's other attempts at heroine titles in 1972 (SHANNA, CAT, and NIGHT NURSE) only lasted four issues (five for SHANNA). Is it possible that Tigra and Sonja actually have a chance for survival? It would certainly be another first for Marvel, as they have never had a heroine title to equal the long runs of such DC titles as WONDER WOMAN or LOIS LANE.

*****

Heroines in other people's books seem to be enjoying a new popularity. ADVENTURE, which carries Aquaman's strip, also giv gives us Mera and Aquagirl (and their inclusion in the cover logo would seem to indicate that they're around to stay). Wonder Woman, Black Canary, and Supergirl were all spotlighted in JUSTICE LEAGUE #132 (against the Queen Bee, no less!). THOR seems to be using more of Asgard's available heroines, with the return of Sif, Hildegarde, and Karnilla. Then, finally, Dream Girl reappeared in SUPERBOY, just when Legion fans everywhere had almost given up hope of seeing her again.

*****

New heroines coming up: don't miss Starfire or Isis when they appear in their own books! We'll have to wait to see how Isis makes the transition from television to comics, but I've heard glowing reports on Starfire already.

*****

Can it be that we may actually have a Wonder Woman series on television next fall? Apparently encouraged by the success of "The Bionic Woman," ABC has been showing more WW pilots. This is probably the most encouraging sign we've seen yet; let's hope that, come September, we can have both Jaime Sommers and Diana Prince on network TV. Who knows, if adventure heroines make money for the networks, we may even look forward to more and more female-dominated series.

*****

Dwayne Best ***** 6 Nobile Lane ***** Poughkeepsie, N. Y. 12603

Lady Luck

"The Haunted House"* - *4 pgs.*

Smash Comics 53 - *May 1944*

Golden Age Girls

by Steve Johnson

Brenda Banks, society heiress, was spending the early evening hours out on the patio with her father and one of his business associates when the topic of conversation strayed to an old mansion which Mr. Jameson had been unable to sell. He explained that the house had gained the reputation of being haunted, and no one wanted to buy the house, even though the local police had found nothing. But Brenda decides to investigate herself, as Lady Luck!

Excusing herself, Brenda enters the house, changes into her costume, and summons her Italian manservant, Peecolo.

The full moon soon finds Lady Luck and Peecolo outside the haunted house. And no sooner than they have entered, Lady Luck and Peecolo hear strange noises, followed by two flashes of blinding light. Peecolo discovers a light switch and is surprised to find that the lights go on!

Lady Luck gives Peecolo a sheet and sends him off haunting while she douses the lights and tries a few "'fraidy-cat" screams to encourage the ghost. Her efforts are rewarded with ghostly "Go Away"'s floating across the room, and her flashlight reveals that the noise is coming from behind a picture which has smoke coming out of it! Lady Luck moves aside the picture and the pipe smoking ghost flees.

In pursuit of the discovered ghost, Lady Luck spots a second ghost! She continues after the first ghost, and overtakes and knocks him down with a flying, feet first tackle. Under the sheet she finds the old caretaker who didn't want to lose his job and move away when the house was sold.

Meanwhile the second ghost has encountered, and is now being pursued by a ghostly Peecolo. The ghost avoids Peecolo's grasp, but Lady Luck takes up the chase and spots the ghost climbing into the loft of the house from the outside.

Arriving at the loft from another route, Peecolo crashes the door and Lady Luck subdues the gun-wielding Jap who had been using the "haunted" house as a cover for his "subversive radio calls to Tokio".

And later that night, before retiring, Brenda offers to their guest, Mr. Jameson, a newspaper with the headlines, "House Hoax Bared".

Costume: Green with a light green veil
Hair: Blonde

This story is fast paced and lighthearted. Peecolo is played strictly for laughs, making him the perfect foil for the serious, but still sexy, Lady Luck.

Klaus Nordling's art, with his attention to detail and background, flow beautifully with the mood set for the story, and his masthead for this and other Lady Luck stories are second only to those done by Will Eisner for the Spirit.

All in all, this is a delightful, change of pace story.

Most of Lady Luck's appearances are available at very reasonable prices, and are certainly worth adding to a Golden Age heroine collection.

Lady Luck was created by the team of Will Eisner and Nick Cardy for the Register and Tribune Syndicate, and she made her newspaper strip debut on June 2, 1940.

****

"The Dream Girl who becomes every criminal's nightmare" appeared in:

Lady Luck 86-90 *December 1949 - August 1950*

Smash Comics 42-85 *April 1943 - October 1949*

Three Comics Magazine 1 *1944*

****

Steven R. Johnson, 16385 Two Bar Rd., Boulder Creek, CA 95006

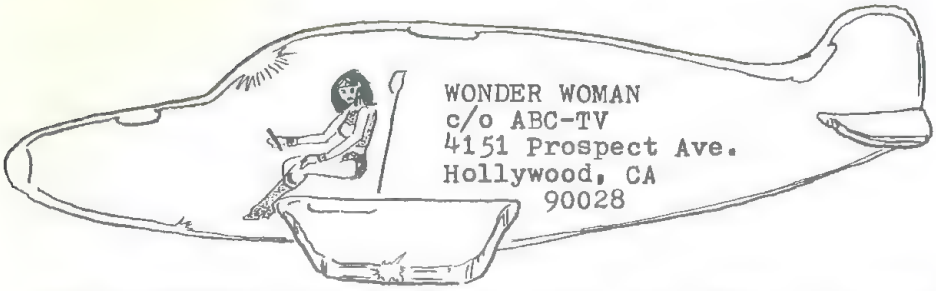
TV - MOVIES

rodi

"The New, Original Wonder Woman" did NOT make the ABC fall schedule...but then, it didn't have a chance. ABC decided to give the show three more ratings tryouts before deciding upon whether to put it in the regular line-up. However, ABC announced their fall schedule on March 29, two days BEFORE Wonder Woman's first crack was aired. Since then, all three pilots have been shown...so, once again, WRITE, to: WONDER WOMAN, c/o ABC-TV, 4151 Prospect Avenue, Hollywood, CA, 90028. I can't emphasize the importance of those letters. All the network has to go on is the handful of Neilson family and OUR LETTERS. So, write two, write three letters, then three more, under another name. Then, hopefully, Wonder Woman will appear in late September or early January, the traditional network replacement periods.

The March 31 pilot was a rerun of the original 90-minute movie which aired in NOvember (reviewed in THA #8). It was cut to 60 minutes, to fit in the "Bionic Woman" time-slot, but it didn't suffer much from the editing. The second pilot, aired April 21, was excellent. It brought back one of WW's most famous adversaries, the Baroness Paula von Gunther, played with sinister finesse by Christine Belford. It involved the Baroness' plot to deflate American morale by implicating war hero Steve Trevor in several blatantly Nazi crimes. The third pilot, aired one week later, on April 28, found Etta Candy (VERY humorously portrayed by Beatrice Colen) in a major role. The story found Wonder Woman the victim of a kidnap plot masterminded by Fausta (Lynda Day George), a German olympic champ. Taken to Germany, Wonder Woman found herself the beneficiary of an unnecessary rescue attempt by Steve Trevor (Lyle Waggoner). Eventually, WW convinced Fausta that the Nazis were her real enemies. The show's theme (sisterhood transcends war) came across beautifully well. Also, the comic moments were especially nice. Arriving in Germany with the kidnapped Wonder Woman, Fausta explains to her superior, Kesselman, that WW's lasso is her greatest weapon. "We sent you to capture Wonder Woman," snaps Kesselman, "Not Dale Evans."

In both films, Lynda Carter continued to build upon the character she introduced in November. At first, Ms. Carter seemed right for the role only because of her amazing attractiveness, but there is much more to her... she has proven herself an actress of considerable competence.



Like everything else in the pilots, the acting is subtle, played down. Ms. Carter shows full control over a relatively respectable range...we can be thankful that the Wonder Woman role didn't fall to the questionable talents of more famous actresses like breathy Joey Heatherton or hysterical Ann-Margret. Ms. Carter is beautiful, but beyond that, her Wonder Woman has dignity.

Once again, it's IMPORTANT that you write. Perhaps, if enough of a mail response is elicited by the films, a more immediate opening for Wonder Woman will appear. For instance, since all three of her pilots pre-empted "the Bionic Woman," ABC may consider rotating the WW and Bionic Woman series, a la "Mystery Theater" with Columbo, Mc Millan & Wife, etc. You may want to mention this in your letter. Do write. It's the American way!

Other TV news: Another ABC pilot that may be of interest to heroine addicts is "Tabatha," aired April 35. This is a spinOff of the old "Bewitched" series, about a family of "witches" (though students of witchcraft will find little of interest in THIS show). Tabatha was a little girl on the original show, and now, just a few years after the cancellation of "Bewitched," she's full grown. Maybe she wiggled her nose and sped up her genes. Who knows? Anyway, the pilot was engaging, and had all the charm of the original show, though the comic potential wasn't fully realized, as it was on "Bewitched." Libtery Williams is good as Tabatha. She'd be much better if she'd stop smiling.

Joanna Lumley, NOT Diana Rigg, will be the co-star of the "Avengers" TV series. Reportedly, she'll not be a Rigg copy, but will be her own unique character...emphasizing glamour. Indeed, she plans to wear dresses in most of the episodes.

ABC has added a rather dreadful (if the pilot film can be called a representative of what's to come) new detective show called "Charlie's Angels," about three girls (Kate Jackson, Farah Fawcett, and Jaclyn Smith) who work as detectives for a man they've never met.

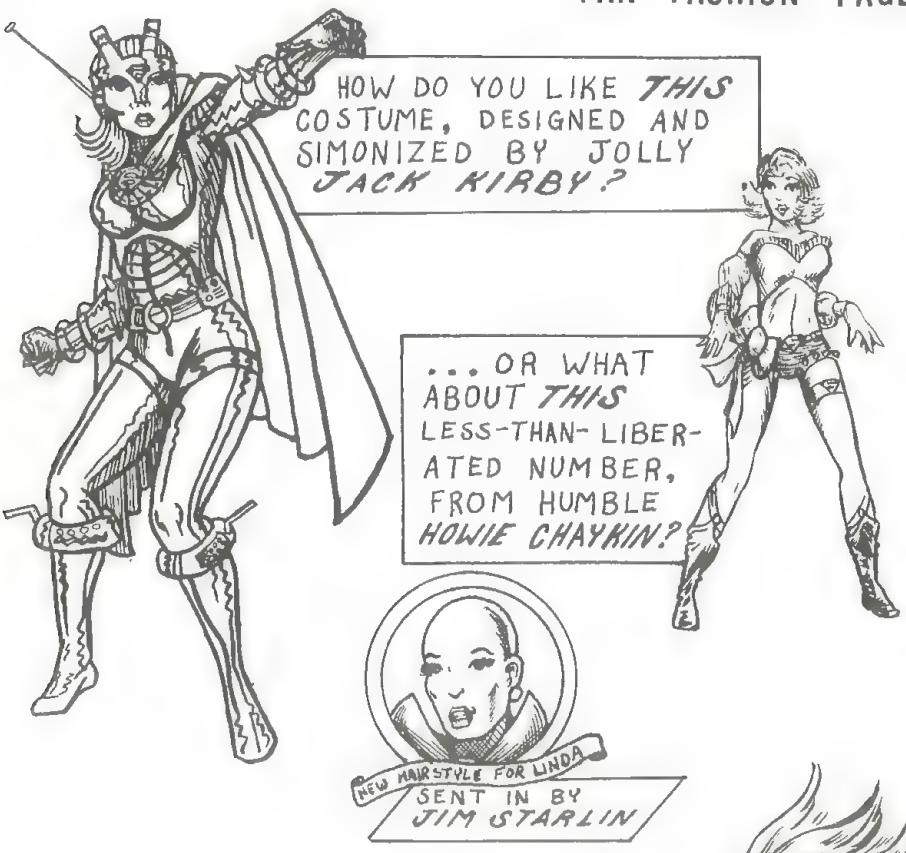
MOVIES: Barbara Lee (who?) has been cast in the title role of Hammer Film's comic adaptation of VAMPIRELLA; Jill St. John has made a TV movie about Brenda Starr; Pam Grier (the world's only macho actress) has made a perfectly awful movie based on the comic strip, FRIDAY FOSTER; and there is some doubt as to whether the SHEENA film with Raquel Welch will come about or not (which is why Sheena isn't mentioned in the "Awards Revisited" column in this issue).

Bob Rodi/34 Chatham Lane/Oak Brook/Illinois/60521. Hola!

HI THERE, BOYS AND GIRLS! REMEMBER ME? I'M *SUPERGIRL*, HERE TO PRESENT WHAT I HOPE WILL BE THE *LAST*...

SUPERGIRL'S

FAN FASHION PAGE


HOW DO YOU LIKE *THIS* COSTUME, DESIGNED AND SIMONIZED BY JOLLY *JACK KIRBY*?
...OR WHAT ABOUT *THIS* LESS-THAN-LIBERATED NUMBER, FROM HUMBLE *HOWIE CHAYKIN*?

BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE A DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LEGION'S TWO COSTUMERS. WHERE *DAVE COCKRUM* WANTS TO COVER EVERYTHING WITH BLACK LEATHER, *MIKE GRELL* WANTS TO *UN*COVER EVERYTHING WITH BLACK LEATHER!
760426

Gee, that's weird! But seriously, folk....

Well, the new pair of Wonder Woman teevee shows were aired recently, and my reactions are mixed. The failure of the first must be blamed on scripter Margaret Armen. The acting was excellent, but the show was just too slow. No action, no suspense, no adventure to speak of, even Paula von Gunther could not hold my interest. If this is to become a network series, the second show sets the pattern to follow.

ACTION! SUSPENSE!! ADVENTURE!!! LYNDA GEORGE IN A WONDER WOMAN COSTUME!!!! What more could ya ask for? A solid hour of jam-packed, entertaining, escapist FUN! And what's wrong with that?

Another heroine to watch is Misty Knight, a bionic beauty in IRON FIST. She hasn't done a whole lot yet, but the potential is staggering. And if you can find the recently released IF #6 you'll get to see Colleen Wing take on Danny boy in what sounds to be one nifty martial arts mess. You've been warned. . . .

Of course you've all heard by now that AVENGERS marks the end of Moondragon and Hellcat, darn it, but the wondrous Wasp will be returning in #150. On the other hand, the Defenders have added the Red Guardian to their ranks, and there's always the Guardians of the Galaxy with the impulsive Nikki and the elusive Aleta, both groups in the capable, but slightly demented care of Steve Gerber. Who knows? Those rumors about a Black Widow solo strip still haven't died down. . . .

Byron Preiss's second volume of FICTION ILLUSTRATED features STARFAWN, something of a STARLOST/Cosmic Heroine tale with some of the most beautiful comic art since the old EC era. Steve Fabian knows how to draw, and Marie Severin's colors made it all the more impressive! I only bought three copies, so there should be a few left for the rest of you if you hurry.

Ballantine paperbacks has just re-released Anne McCaffrey's much-lauded novel, THE SHIP WHO SANG. She's no Red Sonja, but if you enjoy getting inside a heroine's head then this is worth the buck-and-a-half admission fee. I loved it!

Or, if you prefer short stories, there's CHANGE THE SKY from Margaret St. Clair and Ace books. Inside are tales of a very unusual Valkyrie, a downcast goddess, and plenty more.

Well, bottom of the page time folks, but before I go, let me put in a good word for RAVEN, the strip I do for our sister mag, THE ADVENTURESS. New costume, new outlook, new villainess in TA #4, out around the 4th of July, no less. And in TA #8, Raven team's with Bob Rodi's Stella for an extra-long, extra-exciting strip which is worth the long wait.

Till next time, remember: anything worth saying is worth hearing. I'd love to hear from all of you.

Ted Delorme
977 Mt. Vernon Dr. Charleston, SC
29412

THANKS, TED

Dear Mr. Tanner,

Hello! I've been very pleased with the progress the AHPA has made. The quality of the publications is outstanding. The recent ADVENTURESS was fine, in particular "Alix And Illisone." THA is my favorite, but I would like to comment on the new logo. I don't like it. It's lopsided and hard to read. You've tried many more-effective styles in previous issues. In any case, inclosed is $10 to renew my membership.

Dale Cendali
White Plains, N.Y.

Dale, we appreciate your frank expression of your views, both pro and contra. -A.T.

Dear Al,

As a new CHFC member, I'd like to express my gratitude for your wonderful services. I have both TA mags featuring Shamrock & Pixie, and I give these heroines, on a scale of 1 to 10, a 100! FANTABULOUS! Put me on your list to be notified when [the special-order series] "The FURTHER Adventures Of Shamrock & Pixie" will be available.

I'm a fan of Wonder Woman. Could you tell me where I can get info on WW, Reform Island, and villainesses Cheetah and Paula Van Gunther? Where would I look for readily available comics on Paula and Cheetah?

If you print this, I'd like any WW, Cheetah, and Paula Van Gunther fans to help if they will. Any info is appreciated. I'm looking into the possibilities of a Cheetah fan club, or one for the TV Wonder Woman (if it returns) or Bionic Woman.

Thanks again for the greatest in fanzine action!

Carl Nicastro
Pottsville, Pa.

Hang in there, Carl. Shamrock & Pixie's FURTHER adventures in AHPA special-order booklets - as "fantabulously" illustrated by a professional "surprise artist" - will definitely begin this summer!

If any of you THA readers want to help Carl develop his WW interests, let me know and I'll put you in touch with him. (I won't publish his address here since that's contrary to our lettercol policy. We do, as you know, publish fan ads at minimal rates for people who want to solicit direct contact from other fans.)

As for a TV Wonder Woman (Lynda Carter) fan club, I have a feeling that when and if a regular series is presented by ABC, fan clubs will develop on a scale that will astound the network execs. The Bionic Woman *has been a popular TV series in its own right, but our AHPA mail indicates that a WW series could really be* something else *as far as its development of a dedicated fan response is concerned! And I have a the admittedly-subjective feeling that the show's enthusiastic fans would include a great many adults who would not buy a comic book on a bet! -A.T.*

Al:

After all the half-hearted efforts in THA and TA, you seem to have finally gotten back on the right track! THA #9 has got to be one of your best issues ever! The main points of my earlier criticisms were the covers and centerfold illos you had employed. Although there is still room for some improvement, the cover and center of THA #9 are really outstanding!

Among the literary stars of THA, Kirk Hastings and Jeff Thompson shone brightest, but Scott Gibson's writing is the most incisive.

Bring back "Operation: Deluge!" (You'll probably get a *flood* of requests for this.) Tell Jeff to do *something* with his *typewriter*! (Ditto Carol Strickland from TA #2.) More Mercy!

As for the info you sent me on the photocopy [special-order] book-

lets and custom illustrations, I have serious reservations about both the feasibility and advisability of such ventures....You are obviously intending a move *away* from the stated goals of the CHFC and into areas of writing and art that will *not* benefit the majority of heroine fans. If this were the only way to keep doing THA and TA, it's understandable. But I think you owe it to your subscribers and readers to provide this information "out front," and possibly examine other means of advancing your endeavors. As it is, your "diversification" will no doubt lead to the questioning of your motives for operating the AHPA and the challenging of your integrity as a "fan" of comics heroines. I urge you to provide some further explanations of your role in fandom before others come to their own conclusions.

Don Fortier
Kenner, La.

Don, your premise seems to be that a member of "the holy order of comics fandom," be he an editor or any other fan, is somehow lacking in integrity if he also has other interests and chooses to pursue them in his own style. I don't accept this premise; nor, from what I've heard, is it part of the outlook of our AHPA staff members or subscribers. If you say the heroine-related but non-comics-oriented AHPA special-order publications constitute some kind of "sin" in the eyes of a certain sacrosanct, one-track group of comics fans, I'll take your word for it. But members of that group, assuming it exists, have never been associated with the AHPA nor would I expect them to be.

"Motives"? "Role"? If one publishes a comics fanzine, you can assume he does it because he wants to publish a comics fanzine. If he also publishes others kinds of material in which he, artists, writers, and many readers are interested, you can make a similar assumption. His "role" in fandom is that of publisher-editor-writer. (Perhaps some editors see their own role as that of superfan and savior of the comics world; I do not.) If you like the resulting fanzine, read it. If you like the other, separate material, read it. If you don't, don't.

Motives? Well, I happen to enjoy playing a role in the production of material of various kinds which can be of interest both to myself and to other adventure-heroine fans. I've been fortunate enough to find many excellent artists and writers who enjoy playing their own roles in our AHPA ventures...and believe it not, we all are, among other things in some of our cases, comics-heroines fans!

Incidentally, the "stated goals" of the CHFC relate to THA, which is a comics-and-TV-heroine fanzine. No one seems to feel that we have deviated from those goals; THA remains a comics-and-TV-oriented publication pure and simple. (Well, pure if not simple.) The CHFC is now, however, a "branch" of the AHPA, which has somewhat broader publishing interests. No breach of integrity is involved here as we see it.

(By the way, Don, please don't take the time to write me a long letter discussing your "motives" as a fan or fan-ed. Such discusssions tend to be, from an adult viewpoint, rather boring. I'd much rather spend the time reading, instead, your own clever fanzine, DFCFR.)

Okay, now that I've finished responding "out front" to one subscriber's points, let's move on to the views of some others. -A.T.

Al:

I am a subscriber to AHPA and I wish to know about your special-order booklets. I am especially interested in knowing about those available or those you can order now.

Sergio Andrade
Roselle, N.J.

Dear Sir,

I would be interested in receiving your brochure as described in this week's issue of *The Village Voice*. Please send it to my address as given below.

Roy E. Thomas
New York, N.Y.

Please be patient, Roy. It takes time to photocopy each complete AHPA introductory package, but I'm doing the best I can to keep up with the orders I've been receiving. By the way, we've all been glad to see the way Marvel has been promoting the comics heroines during the past few years. -A.T.

Dear Al,

Please put me on the list for the special-order material. I must say that stories along [the lines] of the wonder women, and especially *The Avengers* TV series, sound great! If they are well done, they will be worth the cost.

I would also like to say that with each issue THA becomes better and better, and the surprises like the Art Portfolio are just great.

Cliff Prather
Irvine, Calif.

You're on the list, Cliff! Glad to hear that you're among the many who are interested in various *aspects of the adventure-heroine concept. -A.T.*

Dear Al,

The Heroine Addict's Art Portfolio was magnificent. I enjoyed it very much. I feel that it should be an annual event. An increase in size would more than make up for an increase in cost if the quality of the work remains as high as it was in the first edition.

Scott Gibson was essentially correct [in THA #9] about DC's salute to super-heroines in DC SPECIAL #3. I feel that the best of DC's salutes to super-heroines came a few years later in the form of ADVENTURE COMICS #416. This issue has a letter column called "Super-Spectacular Fe-Mail." The column featured a letter from somebody by the name of Scott Gibson. The only problem was that the letter was about Plastic *Man*.

Keep on turning out the good work.

R.J. Morris
Rossville, Ga.

Your're right: #416 was really a classic! I bought two copies immediately. Yes, Scott has many *interests (which is not surprising), and we've seen his insightful letters featured in innumerable comics letter columns. -A.T.*

Al,

Just a quick note. Like to commend you on the great story in THE ADVENTURESS #3, "Thieves' Honor," one of the best this year. Keep up the good work.

Jeff Clark
West Hurly, N.Y.

Editors like *"quick notes." -AT*

Dear Al,

TA #2, THA #9, *and* Portfolio #1. Yum. Just what I need to brighten my life....And it's a privilege to have my limericks printed in such a great fanzine, and indeed to have them illustrated by a good artist. I *love* the Phantom Lady cartoon.

I missed most of Zephyr, as she first came out during a period when Marvel had stopped sending over anything at all, so that was a very useful resume [in THA #9] of her brief career. The Golden Girl article was intriguing in the extreme. Cap must have been a bit of a lad in his young days, and I see in THE INVADERS (which reaches us much later than it does you) he seems to be wanting to meet Miss America. All those rumours (sic) about him and Bucky were obviously untrue.

I was actually just on the point of writing to you when your letter arrived, because the new *Avengers* lineup has been officially announced. Steed is now to be semi-retired from active service and is in charge of a team consisting of a younger man and a girl. The man is to be Gareth Hunt, and the girl, whose name is given as Purdey without any indication that she has any other, is played by Joanna Lumley, a tall and beautiful blonde who has appeared in a good many of our situation comedies amd is a very competent actress. She intends to play the part as "a male chauvinist pig's dream" - all frills and garters - on the surface. She's been taking judo lessons in preparation.

Kathleen Glancy
Edinburgh, Scotland

Yes, we over here have heard a bit about the up-coming new Avengers *TV series, Kathleen, but it's interesting get your first-hand views regarding her talents, etc. By the way, I have a "message" for you below. -A.T.*

To Kathleen Glancy: Presumptious Lassie! I, for one, ken fine weel fit "skelped his lug" means. Mind, tho', I'm frae Aberdeen!

I realize [,Al] this letter is far too long to print, but I hope you print the aside to Kathleen Glancy.

Spring Simpson
Aberdeen, Scotland

You're right, it was *too long. -AT*

AWARDS REVISITED

THE HEROINE ADDICT #4 (April, 1975 issue) featured the results of one of the most important CHFC Comics Awards categories..."Heroines Most in Need of Revival." Since that time, the CHFC has introduced "Operation: Deluge" and other related activites, such as support for heroine pilot films, etc. Also, the comic industry has taken a turn toward super-heroics again. Now, a year later, half of the most needy heroines HAVE been revived:

WONDER GIRL was voted heroine Most In Need of Revival, with 42 votes. Her popularity stems almost entirely from the Teen Titans strip of yesteryear. Now, the Teen Titans, with WG, is being produced in America by Hanna-Barbera for TV, and a new TT book will soon follow. A tryout issue of DC Super-Stars has already put WG back on the printed page.

BATGIRL was third in the revival line-up, with 34 votes. Her four-year back-up feature in Detective Comics was dropped, in favor or her less-interesting boyfriend, Jason Bard. But two guest-shots with Superman and one with Supergirl restored her popularity, and she now stars in the Batman Family, soloing or co-starring with Robin.

THE WASP has been out of it for years, which is a sad fate for Marvel's most good-natured heroine. But, after several scattered guest-shots, the heroine who won 17 votes in the revival race, placing her sixth, will be returning to full, active duty in the Avengers. And Wanda will still be around, of course.

THE PHANTOM LADY, a golden age heroine who never excited anybody except Fredric Wertham, so devastated readers upon her revival in JLA #107 that she was voted 7th in Need of Revival, with 14 votes. She is now appearing in the Freedom Fighters magazine, where her character is being rebuilt to match her lovely physical attributes.

What of the other four heroines who still need revival? The Thorn, second in the race with 40 votes, and Batwoman, fourth with 26 votes, may concievably be revived by DC someday. But Sheena (eighth, with 8 votes) and the Black Cat (fifth, with 21 votes) aren't owned by Marvel or DC and may never be revived.